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FACT SHEET

SEPA

MARCO Refinery Chanute, Kansas DRAFT

June 1994

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is concerned that people trespassing on the abandoned MARCO refinery at West Hickory Street and Sante Fe Street in Chanute, Kansas may be exposed to elevated levels of mercury, ashestos, flammables and other hazardous substances.

Approximately ten residences and seven businesses are located across the street within 200 feet of the refinery. EPA will conduct door-to-door visits with residents living near the refinery to ask that they keep children from trespassing at the refinery until the hazardous substances are removed from the site.

Mercury, mercury vapors, asbestos, lab chemicals and the flammable nature of the drummed materials at this abandoned facility present an immediate health concern in the event of a fire or explosion. These substances may also present an immediate health concern if inhaled, digested or if they come in contact with the skin.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) secured the buildings containing mercury by placing plywood over the windows and doors. The doors were also secured with padlocks. However, the plywood has been stripped away and the padlocks have been broken leaving unrestricted access to the buildings.

BACKGROUND

The MARCO refinery site operated from 1934 to 1981. During that time, MARCO processed about 2800 barrells per day of crude stock that was turned into diesel fuel, jet fuel, gas, oil and kerosene. The remaining crude bettom products were used to make asphalt.

In 1986, KDHE performed a preliminary assessment to survey the condition of the abandoned refinery. KDHE referred the site to EPA in 1992. In November 1992, EPA conducted a site investigation. The results of that investigation indicated high levels of mercury present in the floor sweepings and on bench tops in the labs. Mercury vapor was also detected at elevated levels in the interior air of the labs. Ignitables and corrosives were found in drums on the site and insulation on the overhead piping contains friable asbestos fibers.

About 40 drums of waste materials remain on site, the site also contains hazardous substances from an oil separator area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Helen Tinson, Community Relations Coordinator, U.S. EPA, Office of Public Affairs, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101 or call (913) 551-7003 or toll-free at 1-800-223-0425.

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FACT SHEET

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Region 7

MARCO Refinery Chanute, Kansas

June 1994

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